

What is claimed is:

1. A method for characterizing an image comprising the steps of:
  - (a) delineating on said image a plurality of test areas;
  - (b) quantifying the color of each of said test areas; and
  - (c) tabulating said quantifying of said color as a plurality of different colors and a plurality of different ranges representative of the percentage of the respective said color for the respective said test area for each of said different colors.
2. The method of claim 1 further comprising the steps of:
  - (a) defining a spatial structural element including a plurality of picture elements; and
  - (b) said quantifying said test areas corresponding to said spatial structural element.
3. The method of claim 1 wherein the color of each of said test areas is quantified as at least one of the mean color and the representative color.
4. The method of claim 1 wherein the color of each of said test areas is quantified as the mean of each of the red, green, and blue color intensities.
5. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of different ranges are non-uniform.
6. The method of claim 1 wherein said quantifying said color of each of said test area is based on a non-binary homogeneity measure.
7. A method for characterizing an image comprising the steps of:
  - (a) delineating on said image a plurality of test areas;

- (b) testing the homogeneity of the color of each of said test areas on said image; and
- (c) quantifying the color of each of said test areas using, at least in part, a non-binary homogeneity measure.

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8. The method of claim 7 further comprising the step of characterizing said image by the distribution of the population of said test areas as a function of color.

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9. A method for characterizing an image comprising the steps of:
- (a) delineating on said image a plurality of test areas;
  - (b) quantifying the texture of each of said test areas; and
  - (c) tabulating said quantifying of said texture as a plurality of different textures and a plurality of different ranges representative of the percentage of the respective said texture for the respective said test area for each of said different textures.

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10. The method of claim 9 further comprising the steps of:
- (a) defining a spatial structural element including a plurality of picture elements; and
  - (b) said quantifying said test areas corresponding to said spatial structural element.

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11. The method of claim 9 wherein the texture of each of said test areas is quantified as at least one of the mean texture and the representative texture.

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12. The method of claim 9 wherein said plurality of different ranges are non-uniform.
13. The method of claim 9 wherein said quantifying said texture of each of said test area is based on a non-binary homogeneity measure.

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14. A method for characterizing an image comprising the steps of:
- (a) delineating on said image a plurality of test areas;
  - (b) testing the homogeneity of the texture of each of said test areas on said image; and
  - (c) quantifying the texture of each of said test areas using, at least in part, a non-binary homogeneity measure.
15. The method of claim 14 further comprising the step of characterizing said image by the distribution of the population of said test areas as a function of texture.
16. The method of claim 9 wherein set texture of each of said test areas is quantified based on a feature including at least one of an orientation and a variance.
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